

SENATE BILL 1779

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 211, relative to solid waste disposal
planning.

WHEREAS, the general assembly funded a joint solid waste study by Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University to determine how to divert solid waste from landfills by finding a higher value use for solid waste as raw materials in business or compost; and

WHEREAS, the report from the initial study is scheduled for release February 15, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee can generate businesses and jobs if solid waste is used as a raw material in business; and

WHEREAS, safe, practical methods to divert materials from landfills protects the waters and the people of the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, solid waste and landfills often inflict the poor, minority, and disenfranchised and are issues of environmental injustice; now therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State university are directed to continue the joint solid waste study to determine as practicable means to eliminate from the landfills food waste, yard waste, hazardous waste, chemicals, and other materials which decompose into a liquid or gas or which may make the landfill or leachate more toxic.

SECTION 2.

(a) The study shall:

(1) Determine how Class IV Construction and Demolition waste can be ground, mulched, crushed, or disposed of on the construction site;

(2) Determine the nature, amount, and source of hazardous waste in the solid waste stream and the construction and demolition waste stream;

(3) Illustrate how to use the raw materials in the waste stream as the raw materials for business and as compost; and

(4) Identify states which have clear and concise regulations implementing such practices.

(b) Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University shall report their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or an interim report, to the senate environment, conservation and tourism committee and the house conservation and environment committee by February 15, 2008.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.